#20
LATE SUMMER 1993
40 BIG PAGES
THE QUEEREST HEROES OF ALL!
SUPER GAY comics
$2.95
Mature Readers
GEORGE PEREZ!
JENNIFER CAMPER - MALACHY COUEY
SEAN DORAN - KURT ERICHSEN - J.A. FLUDD
JULIE FRANKI - ROBERTA GREGORY - JOAN KILTY
ANDY MANGELS - STEPHEN LOWTHER
CHEELA SMITH - HOWARD STANGADOOM
AFTER G.K./D.C.

FROM THE EDITOR

No more secret identities; with this issue of *Gay Comics*, the heroes and heroines fly out of the closet!

Welcome to our second "Super-Hero" theme issue *of Gay Comics*, (our first was #8) which should be out right in the middle of an explosion of super-hero universes from every comic company under the sun.

But in the midst of Ultraverses and Comics Greatest Worldverses and Defiantverses and Imageverses and Valiantverses and . . . Where are the gay and lesbian heroes? Even if we've been relegated to 1% by the latest poorly-trained researchers, there should be at least one or two gay/lesbian heroes. Why is it that the most corporate comic company (DC) has more gay characters than any other company? Does the renewed artistic creativity in creator ownership really mean "heterosexuals-only" creativity?

America's comic book awards, voted on by industry professionals, are the Harveys and the Eisners. This year, **P. Craig Russell**, **Roberta Gregory**, and **Eric Shanower**, all openly gay creators, were nominated for several Eisner awards, but only Russell received a Harvey nomination. Meanwhile, books by other openly gay/lesbian/bisexual/unannounced creators, such as *Gay Comics*, **Ivan Velez**'s *Tales of the Closet*, **Tim Barela**'s *Leonard & Larry*, **Angela Bocage**'s *Real Girl*, or **Donna Barr**'s *Desert Peach*, did not receive any nominations.

The Eisners sent a nice letter which stated "Even though the judges had many good things to say about your entries, especially *Gay Comix*/*Gay Comics*, none made the final cutoff in any of the categories." They encouraged us to submit again next year.

You can bet that I *will*.

There are some people who could suggest that the lack of award nominations -- recognition -- was an example of discrimination or homophobia, but there's no evidence to support that theory. Even if two of the above nominees were *Gay Comics* contributors.

What is clear is *this*: We're not getting the word out. If companies and creators are told by the fans -- *you* -- that they want more gay and lesbian characters, they will put them in. If more of you write in to *Comics Buyers Guide*, *Wizard*, or other magazines, extolling the virtues of *Gay Comics* or comics by gay creators, the fans, retailers, and professionals will begin to notice us more.

The **March on Washington** and countless surveys have shown that our community is a force to be reckoned with; financially, politically, emotionally, spiritually, etc. We may be a small portion of the population, but that doesn't mean we can't be heard.

Make them hear you. Don't be ignored. Let your retailer know you want him to support books like this. Suggest it to your friends, vote for it in the *CBG* awards. Raise your voices, write your letters, lobby the conventions.

Maybe *then* they'll put our heroes in their universes. Maybe *then* they'll remember us next year when it comes time to fill out their award ballots. Maybe *then* we'll be that many steps closer to fairness and equality.

And aren't the concepts of fairness and equality two things that real super-heroes are supposed to represent?

Besides the three comic award nominees, congratulations are due to *Gay Comix* founder **Howard Cruse**, and his partner, **Ed Sedarbaum**. The two were jointly awarded the $25,000 no-strings-attached **Stonewall Award**, for their long-time work on behalf of the Gay and Lesbian community! Howard's busily working away on his DC/Pirahna graphic novel, while Ed works to sensitize police to gay/lesbian issues. Well deserved, guys!

Our next two issues will have some big-time surprises. They're being prepared concurrently, so the issue numbers may flip-flop. *Gay Comics* #21 will by a two-part special issue. **P. Craig Russell** and **David Sexton** will represent "The Legend Of Apollo and Hyacinth," and **Roberta Gregory** will give us an extended "Bitchy Butch" story.

Gay Comics #22 will be our "Anthropomorphic/Funny Animal" issue. We're leading off with an *Omaha, The Cat Dancer* cross-over story by **Reed Waller** and **Kate Worley**, and following it with stories by **Joan Hilty**, **Michael Goldberg**, **Leanne Franson**, **Howard Stangroom**, **Stephen Lowther**, **J.D. March**, **Kris Kovick**, and many others!

Spread the word. *Gay Comics* isn't giving up. We're getting *better*!

Keep Loving!

Andy Mangels

Cover Coloring and layout by Soren Webster from InColor of San Diego!

GAY COMICS #20: Fall 1993
edited by Andy Mangels

FRONT COVER ..... **"The Queerest Heroes Of Them All!"**
by J.A. Fludd and George Pérez
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by Gil Kane and Dave Cockrum

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Inside Cover ..... Contributors

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Design by Andy Mangels Productions

WILD NIGHT*
Joan Hilty ©1993
THE PRETTY POOR EXCUSE FOR AN ORIGIN STORY OF IMMOLA
HEY, ISN'T THIS THE ROOM WHERE P.A.T.H. USED TO MEET?
BAM!
YEAH... SAD, AIN'T IT, IMMIE?
*THE MARTHA REEVES VERSION, NATCH -- FROM THE THELMA & LOUISE SOUNDTRAK
WOW... REMEMBER THAT BIG FLING WE HAD AFTER WE MET AT P.A.T.H?
YEP, ALL 72 HOURS OF IT.
SURE WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED, THOUGH.
WHOA... HERE'S AN OLD POSTER!
NIGHTY NIGHT, UGLY!
HUG A HERC
P.A.T.H

I HATE MY POWER! I HATE IT!!
IT'S OKAY TO GET UPSET, YEASTMAN. I HEAR YOU.
WHAT ABOUT ME? NOBODY TAKES ME SERIOUSLY EITHER!
THE ABILITY TO MAKE BREAD RISE!! GOD!!!
MAYBE IT'S YOUR NAME.
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH "WHATTAGUY"?
WHERE DO AH BEGIN?
YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS, DIABOLIQUE BABE? YOU'RE A REAL BITCH!
I THINK IT'S TIME TO ADJOURN NOW...
KNOK KNOK
...DOOR'S OPEN!
A BITCHY BABE, AN' DON'T YOU FORGET IT, ASS BITE!
AND ANOTHER THING!
WHOA THERE!
HELLO!
HI.
UM... IS THIS THE P.A.T.H. (PEOPLE ADJUSTING TO HERODOM) MEETING?
YES, BUT WE JUST ENDED....
HERE, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE US YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ....
AND PHONE NUMBER.
FLIP FLIP
THIS IS A VERY INCLUSIVE GROUP. IT'S ALL ABOUT HELPING HEROES HELP THEMSELVES ...
MM HM.

'BYE! HAVE A FULFILLING DAY! REMEMBER, WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!
I C'N TELL YOU MORE ABOUT THE GROUP, HON. HAVE YOU EATEN?
DYKES.
NO WONDER SHE WOULDN'T SLEEP WITH ME, MAN!!!
THAT'S WHEN I DISCOVERED MY POWER... I'M A COMBUSTOR.
YOU CONTROL IT REAL WELL.
FOOM
IT WASN'T ALWAYS THAT WAY...
SO THEN I...
OKAY, NOW YOU CAN SHUT UP.
THE SECOND TIME I TRIED IT, I BURNED DOWN MY DORM ....
OMIGAWD...
WELL, NOBODY GOT HURT... BUT I HAD TO GO ON LEAVE.
CLOSIN' TIME, GIRLS...
JUST AS WELL... I HAVEN'T SHUT UP ONCE.
NO, KEEP TALKIN'. WE'LL GO TO MY PLACE.

FOUR HOURS (AND FORTY MINUTES OF ACTUAL SLEEP) LATER...
Z
GAH! SUMVABITCH!
BIP BIP BIP BIP
EXCUSE TH' HOUR, DEEBS, BUT THERE'S A PAIR O' KILLER DROIDS AT BROADWAY AND FIFTH...
(MOAN) ON MAH WAY, DISPATCH.
WOW! I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A REAL BATTLE! CAN I COME?
NO WAY.
BUT I'VE GOT A COSTUME!
UNDERSTAND, AH DON'T USUALLY RISK A GIRL'S LIFE ON THE FIRST DATE...
NOPE.
I ALSO HAVE A JET PACK.
KLIK
HMM.
ARMORY
HEY, IF I'D WANTED A DESK JOB, I'D HAVE GONE BACK TO COLLEGE.
RATATATATATAT

SO! HOW DOES THIS SUPER HERO DEAL WORK?
RULE NUMBER ONE: MOVE QUICKLY.
RATATATA TATATATA TATATAT
OKAY,
FRY!
WHAT'S RULE NUMBER TWO?
MAN! AH WAS SPEECHLESS! HA HA HA HAAA HA!
HA HA HA!
@*!*?
WHY DID WE BREAK UP, ANYWAY?
OH IMMIE... WE FOUGHT LIKE JUNKYARD DOGS, BABE! WE MAKE BETTER BUDDIES THAN LOVERS ....
PLUS YOU WENT AN' FELL FOR THAT CRAZY FIREFIGHTER, OF ALL THINGS...
FIRE CHIEF! SHE WAS A FIRE CHIEF!! AND THANKS FOR REMINDING ME!!
HEY! KEEP IT DOWN OR I'M CALLIN' THE COPS!!
AI YIPE!
END

IMMOLA ACTS OUT REGULARLY IN **OH**, A WOMEN'S COMIC QUARTERLY OF INSPIRED ELOQUENCE, AVAILABLE FROM: **OH**, P.O. BOX 41030, 5134 CORDOVA BAY ROAD, VICTORIA B.C., V8Y 2K0, CANADA. SAMPLE ISH $3.95/CAN $4.95, SUBSCRIPTION $15/CAN $18. GIT IT.

MEN IN TIGHTS © '93 by Robert Kirby

WHEN I WAS ASKED TO DO SOMETHING FOR THIS COMIC.....
THE THEME FOR THE ISSUE WILL BE GAY SUPERHEROES
!
UM, COULD I DO MAYBE SOMETHING AUTO-BIOGRAPHICAL?
SURE
I HAD TROUBLE FIGURING OUT AN "ANGLE"....
DO I EVEN KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS SUBJECT?
I HAVEN'T READ ANY SUPERHERO COMICS SINCE I WAS A KID!
I READ ONLY MORE PRETENTIOUS COMICS NOW
...I NEVER EVEN SAW "BATMAN RETURNS"!
HIGH FALUTIN' COMIX
FINE ART PICTORIALS
ESOTERIC TALES
SUPERHEROES... SUPERHEROES...
THEN I GOT AN IDEA...
HEY, SUPERHEROES PROBABLY MEAN A LOT TO SOME GAY PEOPLE... ALL THOSE MUSCLES SQUEEZED INTO ALL OF THAT SKIMPY TIGHT SPANDEX....
...I MEAN, TALK ABOUT RAW, UNINHIBITED SEX APPEAL!
LET'S TRAVEL DOWN MEMORY LANE FOR A MOMENT HERE..
YOU SHOULDN'T SIT SO CLOSE YOU'LL RUIN YOUR EYES!
THE VOICE OF GRAMMA
TO'S HAIR
SPIDERMAN SPIDERMAN DOES WHATEVER A SPIDER CAN
SPINS A WEB ANY SIZE
CATCHES THIEVES JUST LIKE FLIES
LOOK OUT- HERE COMES THE SPIDERMAN!
GRAMMA
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY OUT- I THINK YOU SHOULD GO AND GET SOME FRESH AIR... (COUGH)
DID SHE... SUSPECT?
CAN'T I JUST WATCH "THE SUBMARINER"? IT'S JUST STARTING...
STRONGER THAN A WHALE, HE CAN SWIM ANYWHERE
HE CAN BREATHE UNDER WATER AND GO FLYING THROUGH THE AIR!
THE NOBLE SUBMAR

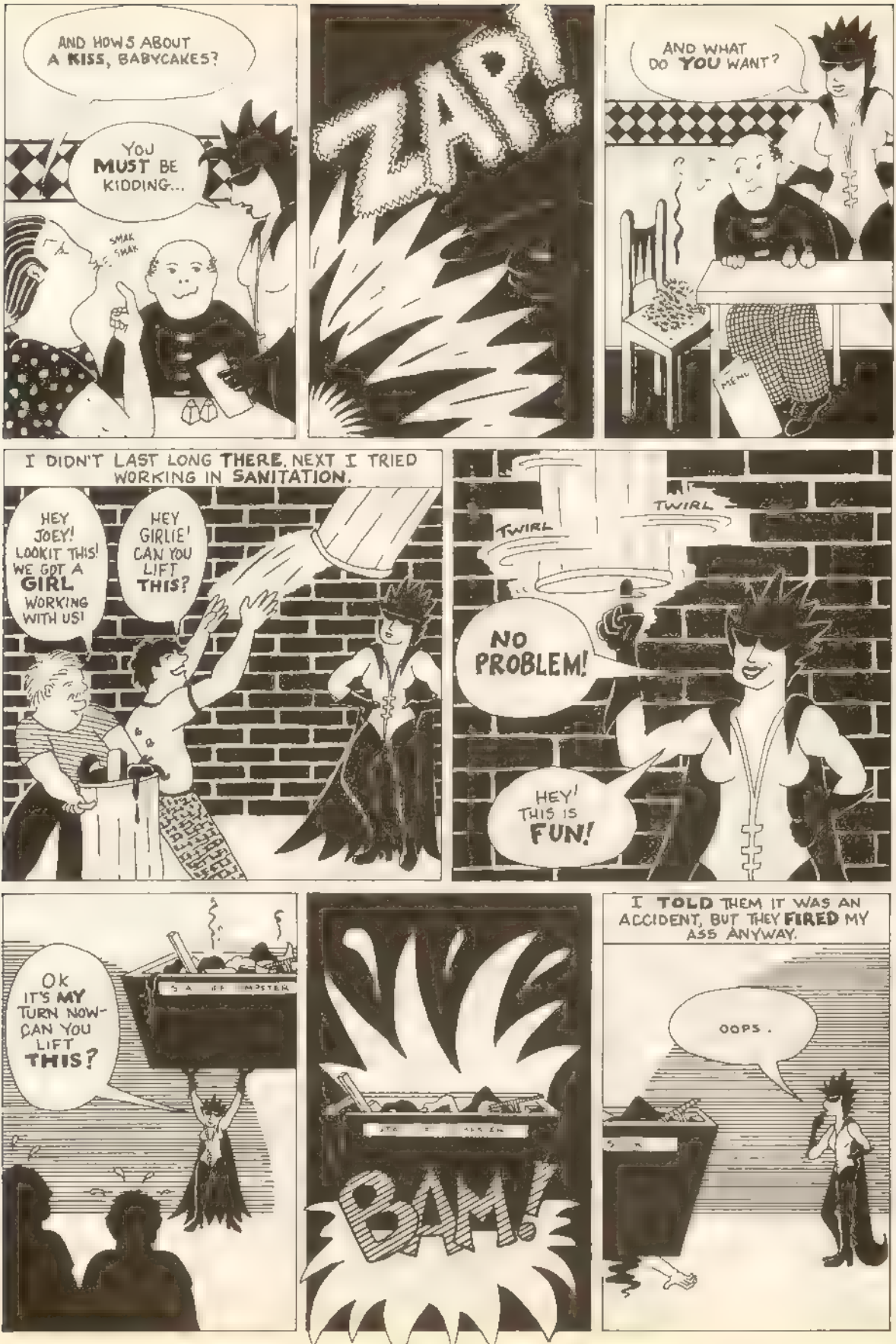
YEAH, I DID LIKE SUPER-HEROES BACK THEN, DIDN'T I?... OH GOD, ESPECIALLY THE FLASH, REMEMBER HIM? I HAD A COUPLE OF HIS COMIC BOOKS ONCE.....
..BEING SO YOUNG, I DIDN'T QUITE REALIZE JUST WHAT IT WAS THAT I FOUND SO INTERESTING ABOUT THIS FLASH FELLOW..
BUT NOW OF COURSE....
HIM AS I CAN BEST REMEMBER
Hey... THE NAME'S "FLASH" WHAT'S YOURS?
LIGHTNING INSIGNIA CUZ HE RAN REALLY FAST
LEAN SWIMMERS BUILD
OBVIOUSLY HUNG LIKE A RHINO
I THINK YELLOW BOOTS
BOY, HE WAS A TOTAL BABE, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT....
SO ANYWAY, YEAH.. HE AND SPIDERMAN AND ALL OF THOSE OTHER MEN IN TIGHTS WERE AMONG MY FIRST ENCOUNTERS WITH MALE HOMO-EROTIC IMAGERY... ...I WONDER IF THE GUYS THAT CREATED THESE CHARACTERS KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING?? ARE ANY OF THEM FAGS, OR WHAT?? BUT, I DIGRESS....
NOW, I FIGURED THAT LOTS OF LITTLE BABY QUEERS HAD HAD SOME SORT OF "SPECIAL" SUPERHEROES NEAR AND DEAR TO THEIR BUDDING LITTLE LIBIDOS....
...SO I ASKED A FEW PEOPLE ABOUT IT.
JON
OH YEAH, I LOVED "ISIS"! REMEMBER HER SHOW?
YEAH! ON SATURDAY MORNINGS!?
I USED TO PRETEND I WAS HER...
"OH MIGHTY ISIS"....
WHAT SHE USED TO DO
TWIRL
TWIRL
HA HA HA
HEE HEE HEE. SHE WAS GREAT, BUT DIDN'T YOU LIKE THE FLASH?
WHO?
UM.. NEVER MIND

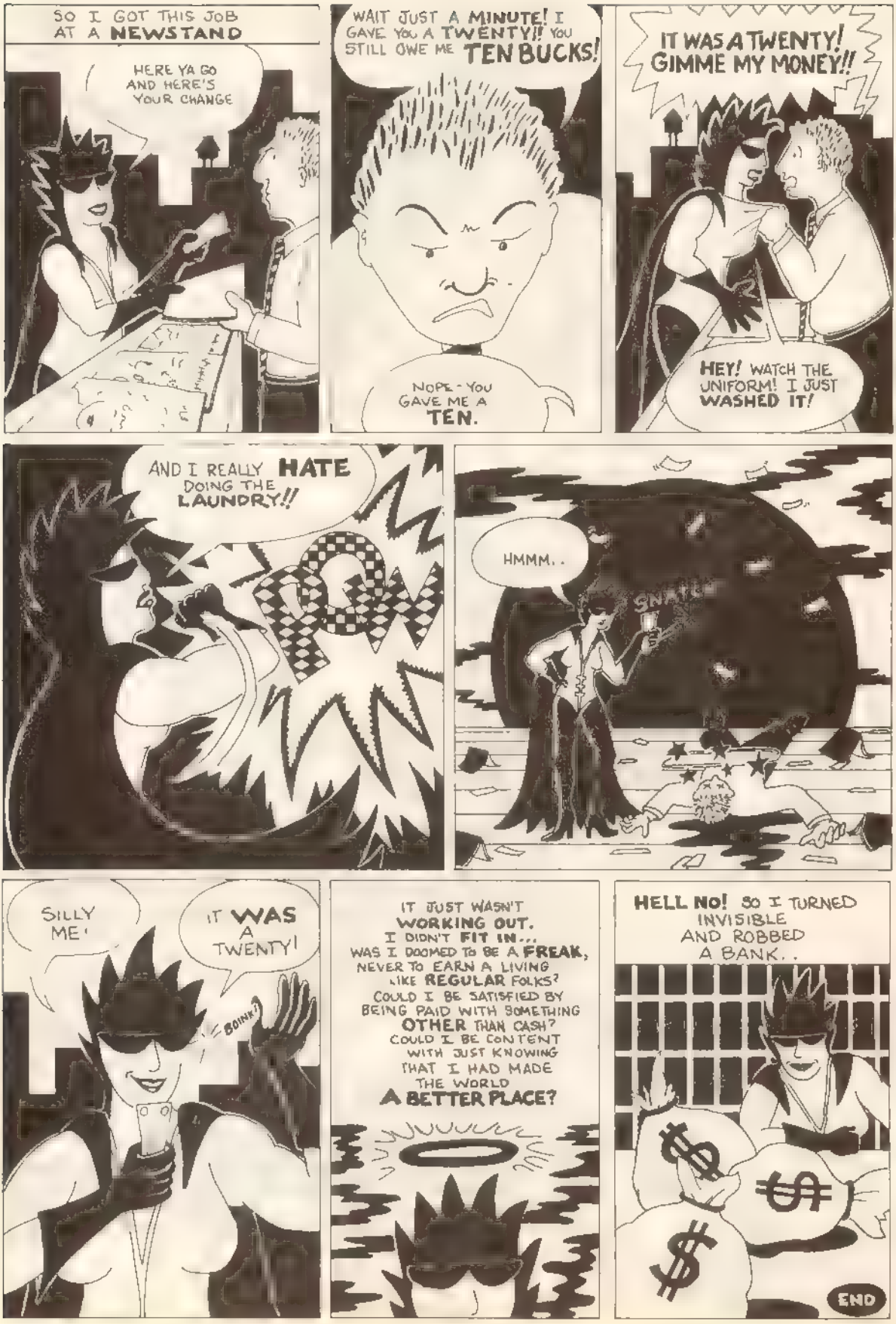
CHRISTOPHER
OH I LIKED WONDER WOMAN...
REALLY....WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU LIKE ABOUT HER ?
UM I IDENTIFIED WITH HER
? IDENTIFIED WITH HER ?
WELL, WITH HER COSTUME
OH
?
ANTHONY
NO... I THOUGHT THE BOY HEROES WERE SORT OF BORING... I LIKED ELECTRA WOMAN AND DYNA GIRL - REMEMBER THAT SHOW ?? I LIKED WONDER WOMAN....OH, AND ISIS TOO ! ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE TWIRLED AROUND....
MAYBE I'M JUST SHALLOW MAYBE I'm JUST SEXUALLY OBSESSED
MY FRIEND JEFFERY EVEN TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE WAS LITTLE, HE MADE HIS OWN WONDER WOMAN POWER BRACELETS TO WEAR !
SEE, THEY WERE WHAT SHE USED TO WARD OFF BULLETS..
OH, UM HUH
I THINK I MIGHT'VE STUMBLED ONTO SOME LONG-LOST GAY-BOY CULT OR SOMETHING..
WELL ANYWAY, MY BOYFRIEND TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD'VE LOVED TO HAVE FOOLED AROUND WITH THE HUMAN TORCH, SO THAT DID SALVAGE MY PRURIENT THESIS SOMEWHAT...
YEAH...
HE WAS HOT ! (Sorry- no pun intended)
...BUT ONE THING THAT CAN NEVER BE UNDER-ESTIMATED IS THE GAY MANS ADMIRATION / IDENTIFICATION WITH....THE DIVA !
RIGHT WW ?
(?) I GUESS SO.... WELL, EXCUSE ME, BUT I'VE GOT SOME ASS TO GO KICK
LATER...
END

IRONWOMAN Adventures in Employment

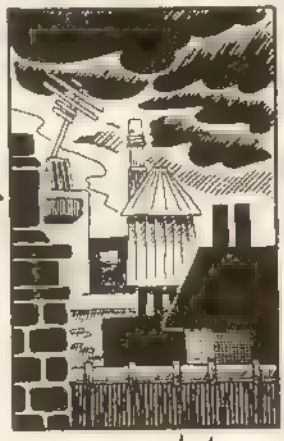
CAMPER

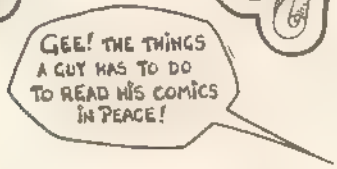
BEING A SUPERHERO IS A LOT OF FUN. I LIKE RIPPING STUPID MEN INTO SHREDS
I LIKE SNATCHING BEAUTIFUL WOMEN FROM THE JAWS OF DEATH.
AND I'M GOOD AT IT
BUT ALL THAT GLORY DON'T MEAN SHIT WHEN THE BILLS COME.
REN
PAST DUE
I GOTTA GET A JOB THAT PAYS CASH!!
O.K. MS UH WOMAN WHAT SKILLS DO YOU HAVE?
I CAN FIGHT OFF ENTIRE GALAXIES SINGLE HANDEDLY, TRAVEL THROUGH TIME, TURN INVISIBLE AND OH, YEAH, I CAN FLY. BASICALLY, I SEEK AND DESTROY EVIL.
CRIME PREVENTION, HUH? WELL, TO JOIN THE POLICE FORCE YOU MUST BE UNDER 35, AND IT SAYS HERE THAT YOU'RE FORTY...
OH...
CAN YOU TYPE?
SO, I GOT THIS JOB AS A WAITRESS.
WHAT'LL IT BE, BOYS?
MENU
GIMME A BURGER AND SOME FRIES... AND COFFEE...

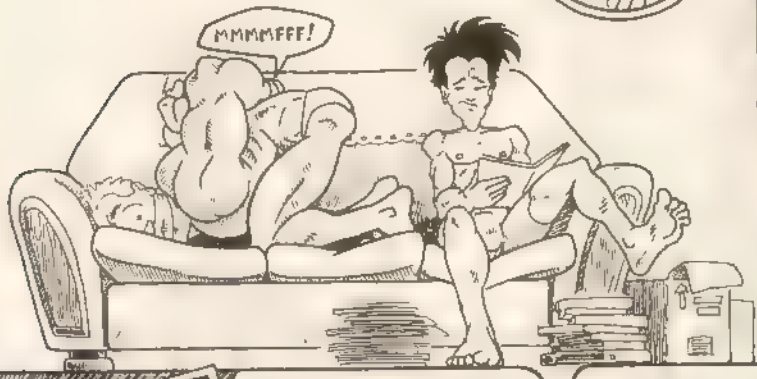

AND HOW'S ABOUT A KISS, BABYCAKES?
YOU MUST BE KIDDING...
SMAK SMAK
ZAP!
AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?
MENU
I DIDN'T LAST LONG THERE. NEXT I TRIED WORKING IN SANITATION.
HEY JOEY! LOOKIT THIS! WE GOT A GIRL WORKING WITH US!
HEY GIRLIE! CAN YOU LIFT THIS?
TWIRL
TWIRL
NO PROBLEM!
HEY! THIS IS FUN!
OK IT'S MY TURN NOW- CAN YOU LIFT THIS?
BAM!
I TOLD THEM IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, BUT THEY FIRED MY ASS ANYWAY.
OOPS.

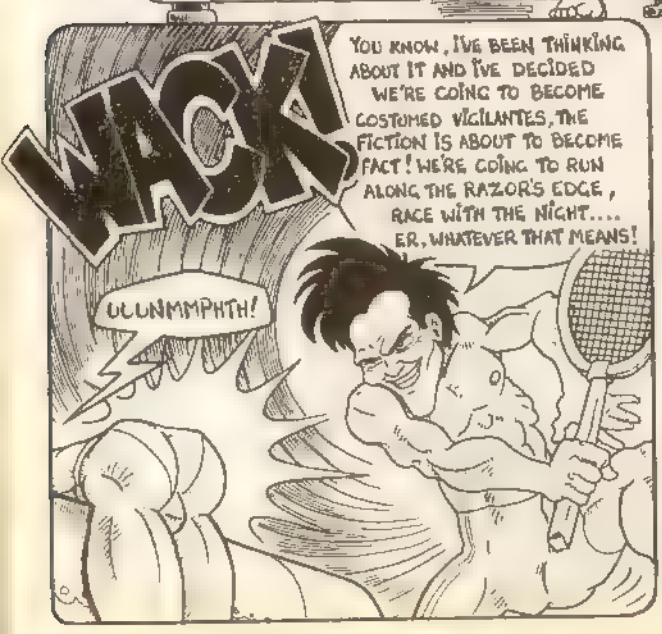

SO I GOT THIS JOB AT A NEWSTAND
HERE YA GO AND HERE'S YOUR CHANGE
WAIT JUST A MINUTE! I GAVE YOU A TWENTY!! YOU STILL OWE ME TEN BUCKS!
NOPE - YOU GAVE ME A TEN.
IT WAS A TWENTY! GIMME MY MONEY!!
HEY! WATCH THE UNIFORM! I JUST WASHED IT!
AND I REALLY HATE DOING THE LAUNDRY!!
HMMM..
SNATCH
SILLY ME!
IT WAS A TWENTY!
BOINK!
IT JUST WASN'T WORKING OUT. I DIDN'T FIT IN... WAS I DOOMED TO BE A FREAK, NEVER TO EARN A LIVING LIKE REGULAR FOLKS? COULD I BE SATISFIED BY BEING PAID WITH SOMETHING OTHER THAN CASH? COULD I BE CONTENT WITH JUST KNOWING THAT I HAD MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?
HELL NO! SO I TURNED INVISIBLE AND ROBBED A BANK..
END

MAJOR POWER and SPUNKY








WACK!
YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT AND I'VE DECIDED WE'RE GOING TO BECOME COSTUMED VIGILANTES, THE FICTION IS ABOUT TO BECOME FACT! WE'RE GOING TO RUN ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE, RACE WITH THE NIGHT.... ER, WHATEVER THAT MEANS!
UUUNMMPHTH!

COURSE, WE'LL NEED COSTUMES; SKIN-TIGHT BODY HUGGING KINKY COSTUMES WITH BULGES IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES! AND A SECRET ORIGIN, WE'LL BOTH NEED ONE OF THOSE!!
HOIST!
OOOOPHLTHH!

"LET'S SEE... YES.. YOU BECOME A SUPERFIT PERFECT SPECIMEN AS A RESULT OF A ONE SHOT MILITARY EXPERIMENT TO CREATE A SUPER SOLDIER."
POP!
AMAZING! WHAT A BODY! IT'S A MIRACLE! THE CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT OF A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST'S LIFE!
WHAT PERFECTLY ROUND SMOOTH BUTTOCKS, FIRM BUT ALMOST BOYISH!
AND HE'S HUNG LIKE A DONKEY TO BOOT!
"WHILST I AM THE PRODUCT OF A LIFETIME'S DISCIPLINE, UNSELFISHLY DEVOTING MYSELF TO A DAILY REGIME OF HARSH EXERCISES DEVISED TO PRODUCE A TAUT, LEAN FIGHTING MACHINE."
BUT WHAT TO CALL OURSELVES EH? WHAT NAMES COULD STRIKE TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF VILLAINS EVERYWHERE? WHAT STERN, BUT FAIR TITLES SHOULD WE BESTOW UPON OURSELVES?
UNF?
GOT IT! BY COLLY, I'VE GOT IT!
"YOU ...YOU SHALL BE MAJOR POWER, NEMESIS OF THE UNRULY."
"WHILST I SHALL BE YOUR FAITHFUL SIDEKICK SPUNKY. LOYAL TO A FAULT AND SEXIER THAN A VERITABLE SEX GOD!"
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK? SMOOTH IDEA EH? WELL SAY SOMETHING, I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO THINK YOU HAD NO INPUT, IT'S QUITE A STEP WE'RE ABOUT TO TAKE!
FFNNRR!
ACTUALLY, LIFE ON THE RAZOR'S EDGE SOUNDS FINE AND DANDY, RISKING LIFE AND LIMB ON PRECARIOUS ROOFTOPS OR IN DARKENED ALLEYWAYS SOUNDS HUNKY DORY....
IT'S THESE QUIET NIGHTS IN THAT ARE GOING TO BE THE DEATH OF ME!

FASTER!
FASTER!
MAJOR POWER and SPUNK
ANCHORS AWEIGH!
GEE LITTLE BUDDY, IS THIS WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, ENGLISH? I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT ANYBODY IS TALKING ABOUT.
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO LET YOU BOOK US A NIGHT OUT!
... HONESTLY, I THOUGHT IT WAS A PLAY ABOUT A GUY WHO WAS HUNG LIKE A DONKEY, NOT A GUY WITH A HEAD LIKE A DONKEY!
NOT UNLIKE THE TIME YOU RENTED OUT THE ELEPHANT MAN FOR SIMILAR REASONS.
MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE STAYED TO THE END OF THE PLAY. YOU KNOW YOU CAN LEARN A LOT FROM DEAD WRITERS.
WHO WANTS TO LEARN SOMETHING FROM A DEAD WRITER? I WANT TO LEARN SOMETHING FROM SOMEONE WHO'LL SHOW ME THE ROPES.
A BAR? WERE GOING TO A BAR? GEE, I'M NOT SO SURE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA THERE'LL BE ALCOHOL AND CIGARETTE SMOKE AND....
ANCHORS AWEIGH
AND SAILORS, SAILORS, SAILORS!!! ON SHORELEAVE, SEARCHING FOR FUN, FUN, FUN !!! MY KIND OF GUYS!
MOTHER
NAVY

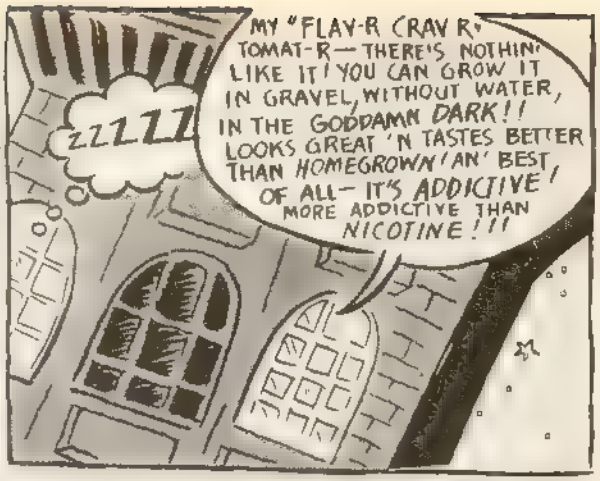
DOUBLE BLOODY MARY AND A FIRKIN OF BEER. OH, AND THE GLASS OF MILK YOU WANTED.
THERE'S NOTHING MORE REFRESHING THAN A GLASS OF MILK
AND THERE'S NOTHING MORE REFRESHING THAN BEING SERVED BY A CUTE LITTLE GUY WITH SUCH GOOD DRESS SENSE, EH? HEY, TIGHT BUNS! TAKE THE WEIGHT OFF YOOR FEET... SIT ON MY LAP!
SO WHY DON'T YOU COME ON BACK TO THE SHIP?
... FOR A GOOD TIME, AND WE PROMISE TO SHOW YOU A FEW OLD NAVAL CUSTOMS .
HEY, THAT'S MIGHTY NICE OF YOU BOYS. MAYBE THIS IS THE CHANCE YOU WERE WAITING FOR SPUNKY, TO LEARN SOMETHING.
SURE IT IS! WE'LL SHOW YOU A THING OR TWO WE BET YOU HAVEN'T TRIED BEFORE!
THAT SURE SOUNDS FINE TO ME BOYS. YOU KNOW, I CONSIDERED BECOMING A SAILOR MYSELF WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. I BELIEVE THE SEAFARING MAN IS UP-HOLDING AN HONOURABLE TRADITION FILLED WITH MOBILITY AND PRIDE
ACTUALLY BOYS, I'M NOT SURE I'VE EVER HEARD OF A MARITIME COSTOM LIKE THMAF! UMPUTHMM!
TRUSS!
YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, BIG FELLA! LOOKING GOOD!
FMUNF!
FLOOP!
POP
MY TURN
TOLD YOU I WOULD GET SOMEONE TO SHOW YOU THE ROPES! NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, BEING IN THE NAVY IS LIVING A MANS LIFE, AND MAN ARE WE GONNA LIVE IT TONIGHT!!

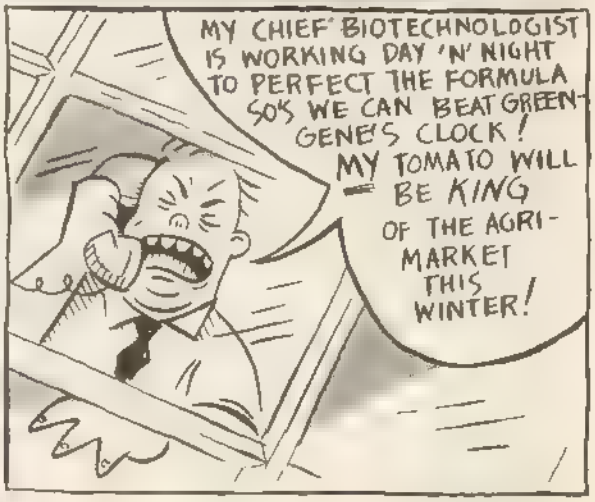
MAJOR POWER and SPUNKY THE RUBBER LOVERS
WELL, HERE WE GO LITTLE BUDDY. TWO BAGS CHOCKER BLOCKED WITH HIGH FIBRE PROTEIN AS BEFITS TWO GROWING SUPER-HUH?!
HOLEY MOLEY WE'VE BEEN ROBBED!
JEEPERS, WORSE YET, MY PARTNER HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED BY ELECTRIC CITY'S MOST NOTORIOUS LATEX CLAD, S & M LOVING TERRORISTS!
Dear Major
WE HAVE YOUR SECRET
Unless you break into
HUMONGOUS ERECTIONS
record offices and
their business
see your cute partner again
THE RUBBER LOVERS
" WHEREVER HE IS HE'S BOUND TO BE IN TROUBLE .."
OH WE HAVE SUCH SIGHTS TO SHOW YOU.
YOU ARE OUR PRISONER OF LOVE.
SNAZZER! FRAZZER! RASSIN!
AND IF IT HURTS, IT'S ONLY BECAUSE WE LOVE YOU.
WHO WAS THAT MASKED GUY THAT JUST RANSACKED THE OFFICES? AND DID YOU SEE HOW TIGHT THAT COOL OUTFIT OF HIS IS?
TIGHT? FLIP ME, HIS TRUNKS WERE SO TIGHT YOU COULD TELL WHAT RELIGION HE WASN'T!!
GOSH, WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT. ME, MAJOR POWER, RANSACKING THE OFFICES OF ELECTRIC CITY'S BIGGEST CONSTRUCTION COMPANY. NO RISK IS TOO GREAT FOR MY BEST PAL....
BLAM! BLAM!
SPANG!
"I ONLY HOPE THEY AREN'T MISTREATING THE LITTLE GUY..."
OF COURSE YOU REALIZE THAT WHEN HE DROPS OFF THE LEDGERS WE WILL RELEASE NEITHER OF YOU. NO, YOU WILL BOTH SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIVES IN OUR LOVE DUNGEON, BOUND TO PLEASE OUR MASTER DEMANDS THIS!!!!
SPANK!
SPANK-O-MATIC
OPH!

UNDERWOOD
WHERE ELSE BUT THE UNDERWORLD WOULD THOSE RUBBER CLAD RUDE BOYS DEMAND TO MEET.
SPECIAL OFFER
OUR LOOK OUTS TELL US YOUR BIG HUNK OF LOVIN' IS ON HIS WAY. LITTLE DOES HE SUSPECT HE IS GOING TO JOIN YOU AS OUR BONDAGE LOVE TOY.
DANG!
POP!
OW!
CRASH!
WRONG RUBBER NUT!
SPUNKY AND I ARE NOBODY'S LOVE TOYS!
EAT LEDGER MISCREANT!
WOMP!
OOK!
BOK!
FAMOUS ERICTONE RUBBERLESS LEDGER
YOU OKAY LITTLE BUDDY?
HAH! OUT OF THE DUNGEONS OF LOVE TO FREEDOM! THEY NEVER SUSPECTED THE HOMING DEVICE I HAD SEWN INTO YOUR BRIEFS - I KNEW EXACTLY WHERE TO FIND YOU, THANKS TO MY FORESIGHT!!
Y'KNOW MAJOR, I BELIEVE THERE WAS MORE TO MY KIDNAPPING AND THE THEFT OF THESE LEDGERS THAN WE KNOW. AND I DON'T THINK WE'VE HEARD THE LAST OF THE RUBBER LOVERS AND THEIR MYSTERIOUS MASTER
CEE, WHO CARES?! I'M JUST GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK WHERE YOU BELONG. BETWEEN THE SHEETS AN' BETWEEN MY LEGS.
DAMN THOSE LYCRA LOVE BOYS!! THEY HAVE NOT HEARD THE LAST OF ME! I MUST HAVE THOSE LEDGERS AND I'LL HAVE THOSE TWO TO BOOT!
WHO IS THE MYSTERIOUS LEADER OF THE RUBBER LOVERS? FIND OUT NEXT TIME.....MAYBE

SHE'S A VERY SPECIAL GIRL. FROM HER HEAD DOWN TO HER TOENAILS — THAT GIRL IS REALLY WILD NOW! SHE'S THE KINDA GIRL YOU READ ABOUT! SHE'S ALRIGHT! SHE'S A ...
SUPERFREAK!
(SHE'S SUPER FREAKY!)
©1993 CHEELA R. SMITH
OAKLAND, CALIF. — APRIL 13, 1993 ...
GOTTA PERFECT THIS FORMULA BY MIDNIGHT! GET THAT MILLION DOLLAR BONUS FROM MR FRANKENCHOW SO I CAN PAY FOR THAT SEX CHANGE OPERATION LIKE I PROMISED MY BABY SISTER AN' I REALLY WANT A HARLEY
≥YAWN≤ SO SLEEPY! BEEN GOIN' FOR THREE DAYS 'N NIGHTS NOW, NON-STOP. GOTTA STAY AWAKE 'N GET THAT MILLION!
LOOK — I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES- MONEY/MURDER/IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME — WE GOTTA GET MY TOMATO ON THE MARKET FIRST!
Sic Lyrics (BMI) XO Special Thanks to Miss R 'N Hoyy for A-1 Brain Power XOX Hi Rick D: THANK-U-2 XOX!
* "SUPERFREAK" By Rick James/Alonzo Miller ©1981 Jobete Music, Inc/Stone City Music Co (ASCAP)/Stone Diamond Mu

YEP! YOU HEARD ME RIGHT. EVEN IF WE HAVE TO SNUFF GREENGENES LAB'S CHIEF ENGINEER, THE BILLION-DOLLAR TOMATO'S GONNA BE MINE! ALL MINE!
TOMATRIX ENTERPRISES
YAWN


ZZZZZ
MY "FLAV-R CRAV R" TOMAT-R— THERE'S NOTHIN' LIKE IT! YOU CAN GROW IT IN GRAVEL, WITHOUT WATER, IN THE GODDAMN DARK!! LOOKS GREAT 'N TASTES BETTER THAN HOMEGROWN 'AN' BEST, OF ALL— IT'S ADDICTIVE! MORE ADDICTIVE THAN NICOTINE!!!


MY CHIEF BIOTECHNOLOGIST IS WORKING DAY 'N' NIGHT TO PERFECT THE FORMULA SO'S WE CAN BEAT GREEN-GENE'S CLOCK! MY TOMATO WILL BE KING OF THE AGRI-MARKET THIS WINTER!

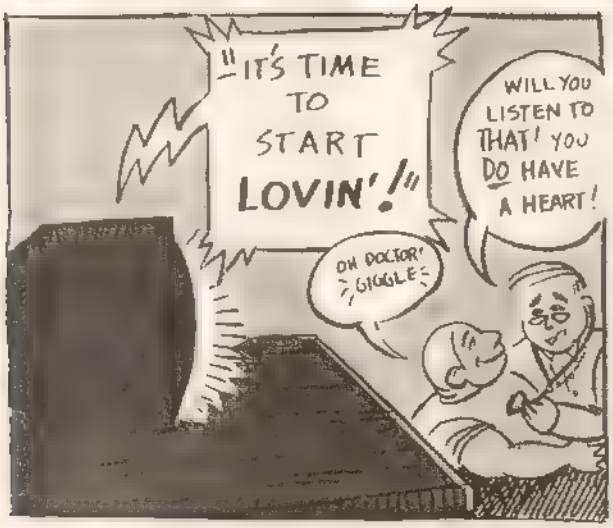
ZZZZZZ
SLIP
SPLASH
POP
FIZZ
SIZZLE
CRACKLE

KA-BOOM!!

6 WEEKS LATER...
DOCTOR... WILL MY EYES BE OKAY? AM I...? BLIND?
CLACK CLACK
WE WON'T KNOW MISS MALONE TIL WE GET THESE BANDAGES OFF
SNIP
I CAN SEE!
YOU KNOW, MISS MALONE—THIS TRAGIC INCIDENT WOULD NEVER HAVE OCCURRED IF YOUR CAREER WERE WIFE'N'MOTHERHOOD AS NATURE INTENDED YOU'RE A HOMO-SEXUAL ARE YOU NOT, MISS MALONE?
I KNOW A VERY GIFTED THERAPIST WHO CAN HELP YOU RECOVER FROM YOUR UNFORTUNATE LIFESTYLE
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
>GULP<
NOW NOW MISS MALONE
YOU'VE PISSED ME...OFF!!!
HOMOVISION
RRRRRR!
A MONTH PASSES...
A RASH OF SUDDEN RE-ORIENTATIONS TO HOMOSEXUALITY HAS SWEPT THE BAY AREA IN THIS PAST MONTH! IN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBERS PERSONS PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS HETEROSEXUAL ARE COMING OUT IN DROVES. SOME ARE ATTRIBUTING THIS PHENOMENON TO THE EFFORTS OF A MYSTERIOUS INDIVIDUAL KNOWN AS THE "SUPERFREAK"! "SHE TURNS PEOPLE GAY"—SAID ONE ECSTATIC WITNESS WHO WAS UNABLE TO DESCRIBE HER. "WHATEVER SHE DID LEFT ME KINDA DAZED... I CAN'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT HER.."
HIC HIC HIC HIC
>GRRRR< TIME TO GO OUT 'N KICK SOME FAG-ASS!
I NEED A MAN!!

DIE FAGGOT BITCHES!
#*@%
OH HONEY! YOU SEEM SO MUCH HAPPIER SINCE YOU QUIT WORKING FOR TOMATRIX! THOSE TOMATOES WERE SO... CREEPY!
HIC- WHICH ONE'S THE MAN?
DON'T... PISS... ME... OFF!
BITE MY KING-SIZE TOP DOG, LEZBO!
♪ HAVE A YABBA-DABBA-DOO TIME ♪ YOU'LL HAVE A GAY OL' TIME! ♪
HOMOVISION!
I NEED A GREAT BIG TOP DOG!

...IN A LETTER TO THE S.F CHRONICLE TODAY THE MYSTERIOUS SUPERFREAK STATED: "THROUGH BIOGENETIC ENGINEERING, I HAVE TRANSFORMED DOZENS OF ORDINARY GAYS 'N LESBIANS INTO SUPERFREAKS LIKE MYSELF! AND TO ALL YOU HATE-MONGERING HOMOPHOBES OUT THERE WE SAY TO YOU —



EARLIER THIS WEEK, THEIR SOLE PRODUCT — THE FLAV-R CRAV-R TOMATO— BOMBED MISERABLY IN THE MARKET. SAID ONE CONSUMER — "THAT TOMATO IS JUST SO... CREEPY!" THEIR TOP C.E.O, IB FRANKENCHOW WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT
PSSST! WANNA PLAY DOCTOR?

Dialogue coaching from Miss "R" of Oakland 'N Sharon Davenport of the Brick Hut Cafe in Berkeley

©1993-APRIL BY CHEELA R SMITH ··· with a little

HEY, CEREBRAL GIRL, WE GOTTA CALL THIS SOMETHING SO WE CAN GET STARTED!
ALRIGHT, HOW ABOUT "LOVE AND DEATH IN THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM"?
UH YEAH, THAT'S CATCHY, AND THE HARVARD BABES WOULD LOVE IT, BUT WE ONLY GOT SO MUCH SPACE! HOW 'BOUT: BLOOD, SEX, AND COMICS!
I CAN SEE, AS THE AUTHOR, THAT I MUST EXERCISE "FINAL SAY" (LOOK IT UP IN YOUR CONTRACTS)... THIS STORY IS CALLED:
B.A.B.E.QUEST.
☆ starring GRAVITY BABE and CEREBRAL GIRL!
OH, YEAH, REAL CATCHY!
C.G., OUR AUDIENCE MAY BE WONDERING WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ANTI-STEREOTYPE SUPER-HERO GALS!
WELL, BASICALLY, ONE DOESN'T GET MANY DATES, NOT THAT YOU'VE NOTICED! WHO WAS THAT IN YOUR SUPER-HOVER CAR ABOVE FROSTY-FRY THIS EVENING LAST?
ANTIQUE COMICS
FROSTY
WHY, EGGHEAD, DEAR ONE MIGHT THINK YOU WERE JEALOUS!
RIDICULOUS! WE'RE JUST BUDDIES. AHEM. REMEMBER?
OH, YES. THE CODE
YES, THE CODE. . THE CODE STATES THAT: EVEN THOUGH WE'RE CLOSE FRIENDS, AND LOVE EACH OTHER'S MINDS...
...AND ARE TOGETHER - ALL THE TIME IN SKIN-TIGHT OR REVEALING CLOTHES-
-WE SHALL ALWAYS BE FOREVER CHASTE..
SO HELP US, CARL JUNG!
BUT, BRAIN GIRL, HOW CAN ONE RESIST THE TEMPTATIONS?!
WHAT, LIKE TANK GIRL? WE DON'T ASSOCIATE WITH RUDE BRITISH-BOY COMICS--IT'S AGAINST OUR PRINCIPLES!
WHO'S PRINCIPLES? I SAW WHAT WAS UNDER THE TOWELS ON THE BACK OF YOUR TOILET!
NO TANK GIRL, I'LL TELL YOU THAT!!

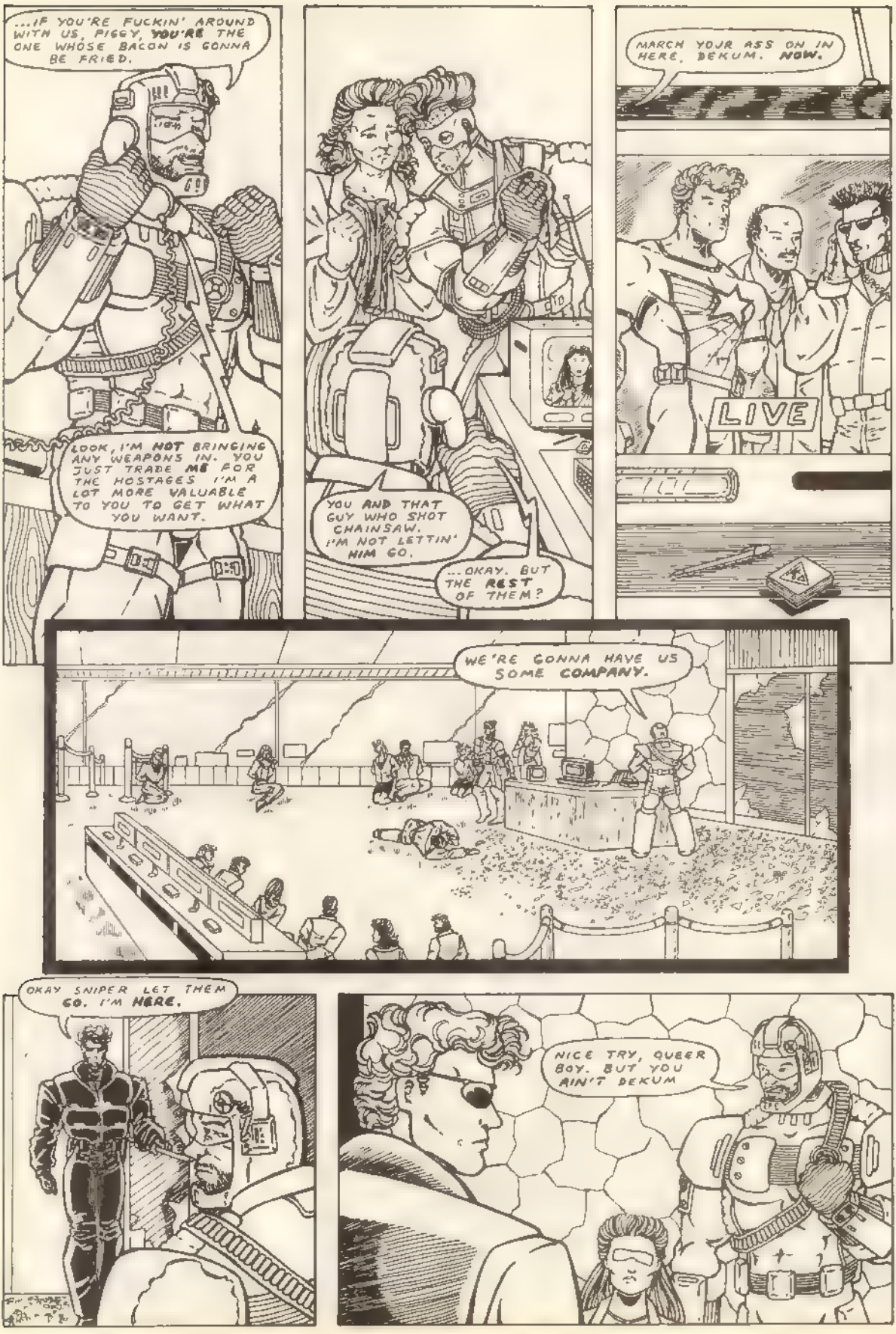
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE JADE, THE LOVE AND ROCKETS #38 WITH MARICELA AND KRIS ON THE COVER, WIRED WORLD, '87-'88 ELEKTRA... SHALL I CONTINUE?
ENOUGH OBSCURE ALLUSIONS! ISN'T THERE A DAMSEL SOMEWHERE IN NEED OF OUR HELP?
HELP, HEE-ELP! THIS STORY IS IN NEED OF A PLO-O-O-T!!
I THINK I HEAR ONE NOW!
GRATUITOUS BACKGROUND
ONE MIGHT STOP HERE AND PONDER THE PARADOX OF PERSONIFYING A CONCEPT, SUCH AS A LITERARY DEVICE ITSELF...
--*!
-OR EVEN THE PUN THAT ABOUT TWO PEOPLE WILL GET ON THE CANADIAN SLANG "PLOTTE"* - BUT INSTEAD WE'D BETTER HURRY!
*THANKS TO JULIE DOUCET!
SCREECH
HAAALP!
YUCKY SPACE MONSTERS! HAAALP!
GROSS ME OUT!
WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN
PROBLY LIKE MOM STOP LEANING
CLUCK CLUCK CLUCK
BAM BAM BAM
DYRACELL HARD TO KILL
CADBURY'S
KISS ME I'M REPUBLICAN
EXCUSE ME, AUTHOR, BUT COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE.. SOPHISTICATED IN YOUR APPROACH?
BOING
SLAP
OKAY, HOW'S THIS?

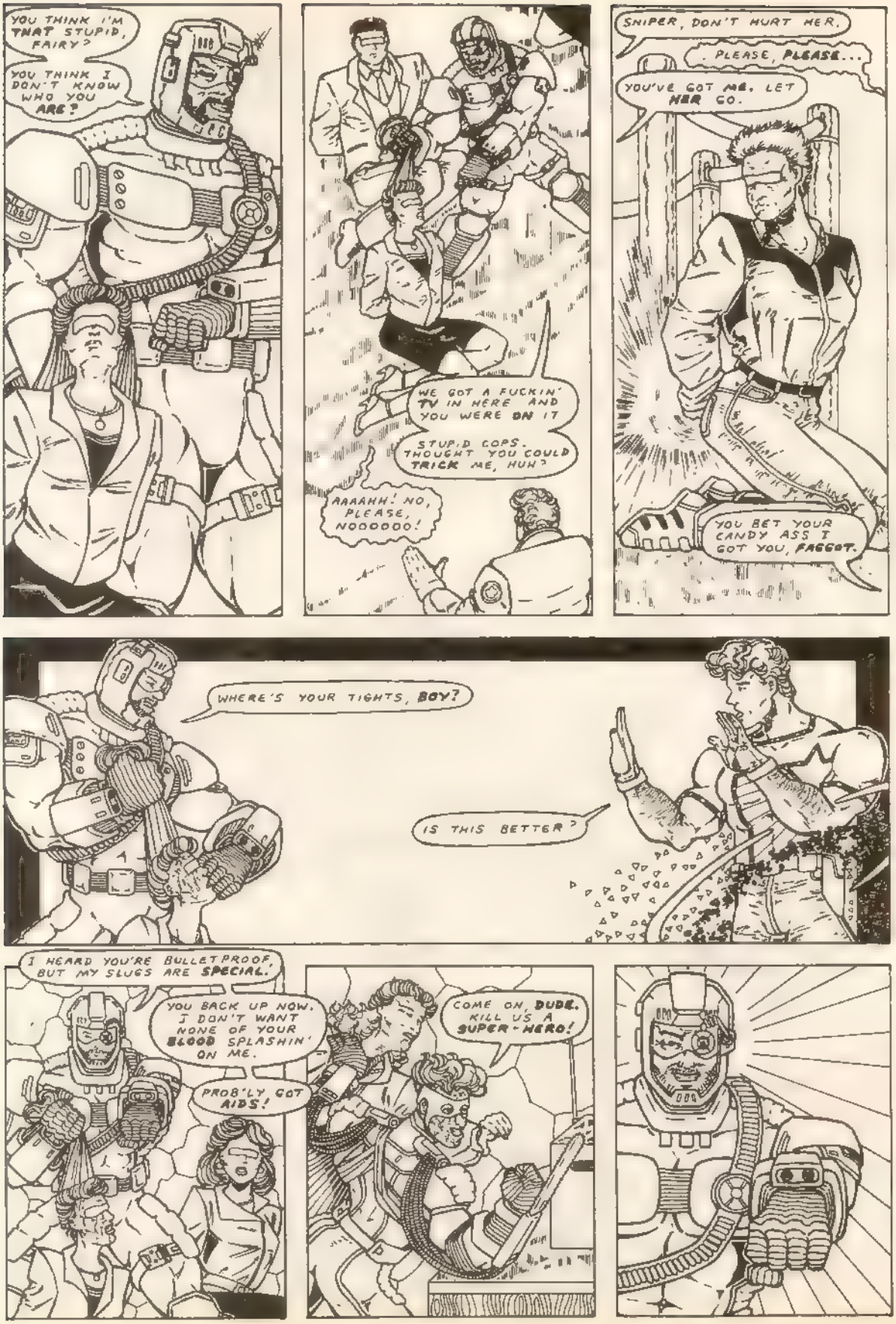
WE'LL TAKE IT!
SEXY...
..WITH INTELLECTUAL OUTLAW AFFILIATIONS!
HELLO, I'M LOOKING FOR THE INTER-GALACTIC ASSOCIATION OF DEVIANT CARTOON CHARAC-TERS...
AND I'VE LOST MY WAY.
LADY CHATTERLY'S OTHER LOVER WRITTEN ON THE BODY
FAIR PRINCESS, LET ME AID YOU IN YOUR QUEST!
FORGET HER, SISTER! (HEH, HEH -- THEY DON'T CALL ME GRAVITY BABE FOR NOTHIN'!)
LET'S GO GET DOWN AT BABY JANE'S - DJ JOAN IS ON AT ELEVEN!
GAG!
THE ASSOCIATION IS THROWING A FABULOUS PARTY - WHY DON'T YOU BOTH COME WITH ME?
DYKES WATCH OUT
DONE!
GROOVY!
UM, ARE THOSE BOOKS JUST PROPS LIKE BELLE'S IN THAT BEASTLY DISNEY FLICK?
NO, THEY'RE MINE, AND I'VE EVEN READ THEM!
GRAVITY BABE! HOW RUDE!
HEY -- I'M THE FIRST TO ADMIT - SHE'S WAY BETTER THAN JOSIE AND THOSE STUPID PUSSYCATS!
CEREBRAL GIRL & GRAVITY BABE
C.U. in the Cosmos
SAY
©Julia Frank 93

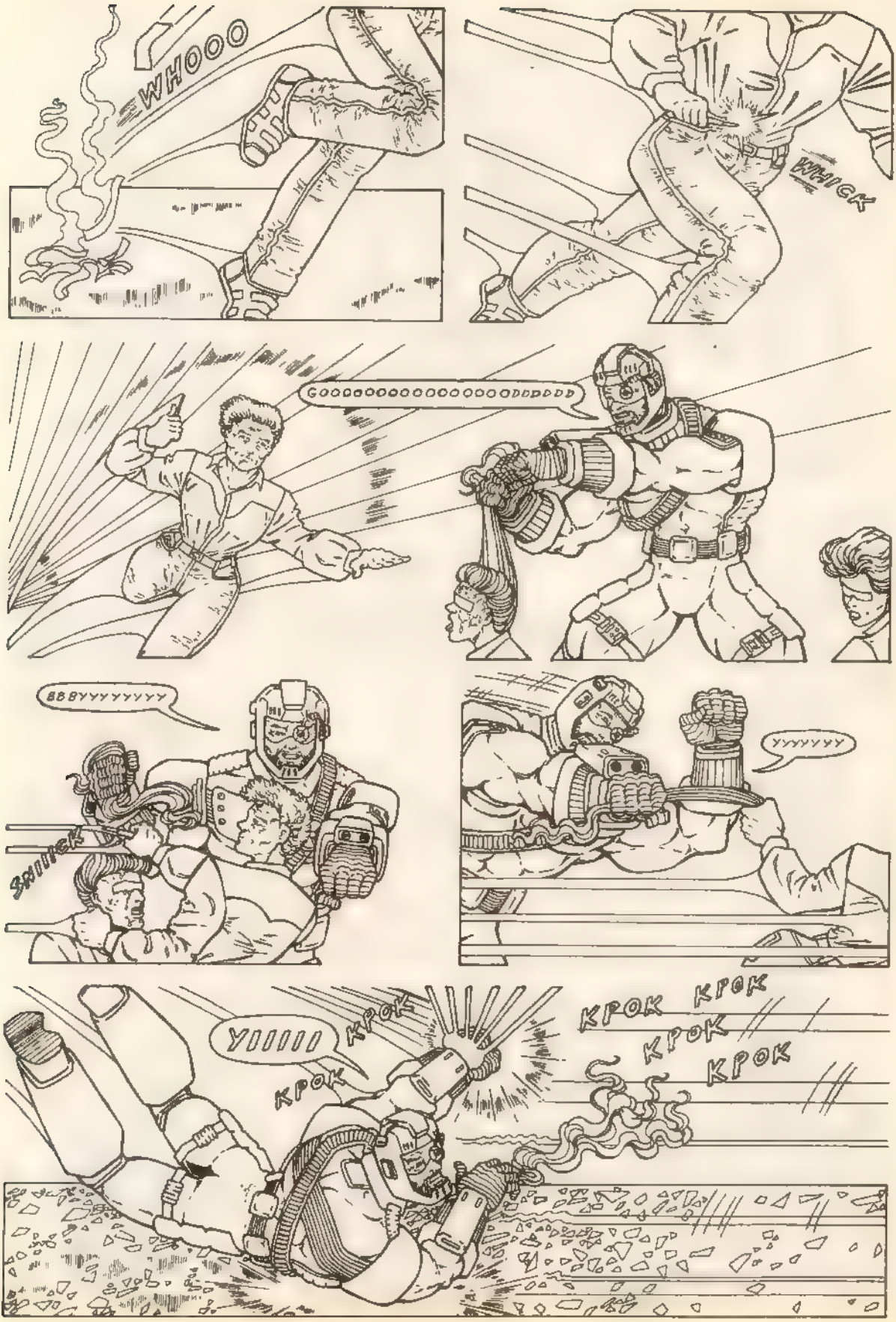
SENTINEL in A SPEEDY RETURN

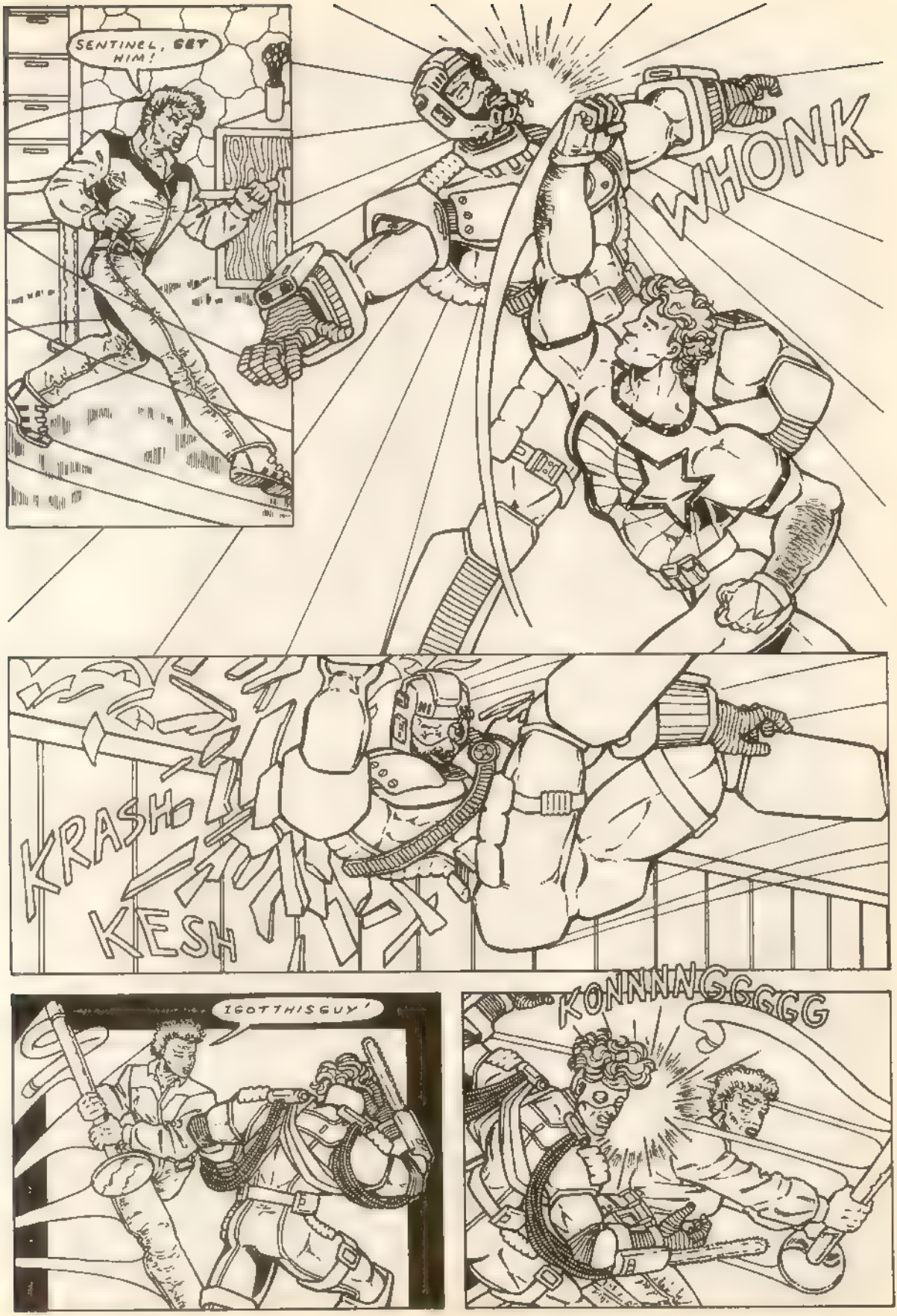
Written by ANDY MANGELS
Illustrated by J.A. FLUDD
SENTINEL costume by GREG PHILLIPS

..TENSE STAND-OFF CONTINUES AS THE TRIGGER-HAPPY SNIPER HOLDS THIRTEEN HOSTAGES INSIDE THE FIRST FEDERAL SECURITY BANK.
POLICE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT AN OFF-DUTY OFFICER--IN THE BANK WHEN THE ROBBERY BEGAN--SHOT AND WOUNDED SNIPER'S PARTNER, CHAINSAW. HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REVEALING WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OFFICER, OR THE OTHER...
FIRST FEDERAL SECURITY
CAPTAIN PIETT IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?
IT'S REALLY TOUCHY RIGHT NOW, SENTINEL WHAT WE'VE GOT HERE IS...
SORRY, MA'AM. I CAN'T LET YOU GO OVER THERE. IT'S FOR YOUR SAFETY, TOO
GET A SHOT OF SENTINEL.
GOT IT.
SO YOU CAN GET HIM BACK ON THE LINE?
OH YEAH EXCEPT HE KEEPS MAKING THE LADIES IN THERE SCREAM FOR HELP, JUST TO SCREW WITH US.
WELL, HERE'S MY PLAN...


...IF YOU'RE FUCKIN' AROUND WITH US, PIGGY, YOU'RE THE ONE WHOSE BACON IS GONNA BE FRIED.
LOOK, I'M NOT BRINGING ANY WEAPONS IN. YOU JUST TRADE ME FOR THE HOSTAGES. I'M A LOT MORE VALUABLE TO YOU TO GET WHAT YOU WANT.
YOU AND THAT GUY WHO SHOT CHAINSAW. I'M NOT LETTIN' HIM GO.
...OKAY. BUT THE REST OF THEM?
MARCH YOUR ASS ON IN HERE, DEKUM. NOW.
LIVE
WE'RE GONNA HAVE US SOME COMPANY.
OKAY SNIPER LET THEM GO. I'M HERE.
NICE TRY, QUEER BOY. BUT YOU AIN'T DEKUM


YOU THINK I'M THAT STUPID, FAIRY?
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE?
WE GOT A FUCKIN' TV IN HERE AND YOU WERE ON IT
STUPID COPS. THOUGHT YOU COULD TRICK ME, HUH?
AAAAHH! NO, PLEASE, NOOOOOO!
SNIPER, DON'T HURT HER.
. PLEASE, PLEASE...
YOU'VE GOT ME. LET HER GO.
YOU BET YOUR CANDY ASS I GOT YOU, FAGGOT.
WHERE'S YOUR TIGHTS, BOY?
IS THIS BETTER?
I HEARD YOU'RE BULLETPROOF, BUT MY SLUGS ARE SPECIAL.
YOU BACK UP NOW. I DON'T WANT NONE OF YOUR BLOOD SPLASHIN' ON ME.
PROB'LY GOT AIDS!
COME ON, DUDE. KILL US A SUPER-HERO!


WHOOO
WHACK
GOOO


SENTINEL, GET HIM!
WHONK
KRASH
KESH
I GOT THIS GUY!
KONNNNGGGGG

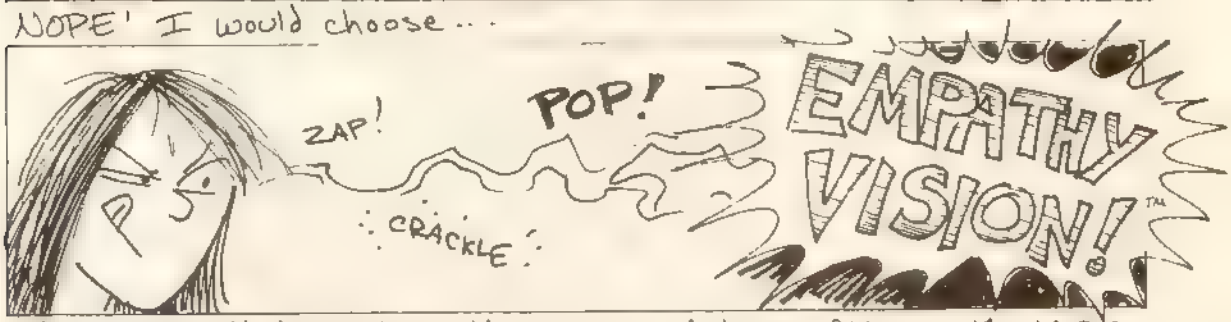
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
UHHH, ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH. I RUN ABOUT A HUNDRED MILES EVERY MORNING. THIS IS JUST THE ADRENALIN FROM FACING THE BAD GUYS AGAIN.
JUST A SEC.
AGAIN? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HERE. COULDN'T STAND TO GET RID OF IT..
PEACEKEEPERS
CODENAME FOXTROT
TOP CLEARANCE ID
400026
...EVEN AFTER WHAT THEY DID TO ME.
FOXTROT?
YOU'RE THE ONE THEY KICKED OUT BACK IN THE EARLY FIFTIES?
YEAH. OFFICIALLY IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS A SECURITY RISK. UNOFFICIALLY, IT WAS BECAUSE I WOULDN'T SLEEP WITH COMMANDER PEACE. HE SPREAD THE WORD THAT I WAS A DYKE, AND IN THOSE DAYS...
...WELL, LET'S JUST SAY I WASN'T WELCOME AT THE CLUBHOUSE ANY MORE.
HEY, THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW. COME ON, LET'S REINTRODUCE FOXTROT TO THE PRESS.
THINGS AREN'T THAT DIFFERENT, FLY BOY. 'SIDES, THE TIGHTS DON'T FIT ANY MORE. MY WIFE COOKS TOO WELL.
I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, THOUGH. I KNOW YOUR SECRET.
FFWWWWOOOOO

IF I WERE A

SUPERHERO (inc)

©1993 Roberta Gregory

NOPE! I would choose...



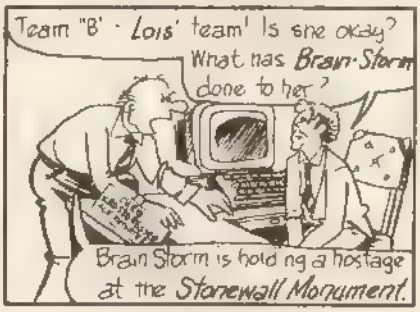
Then, I would take about three years and travel ALL over the WORLD... (No problem here! I like travelling, and the invulnerability would sure come in handy-) I'd be sure to make LOTS of eye contact!

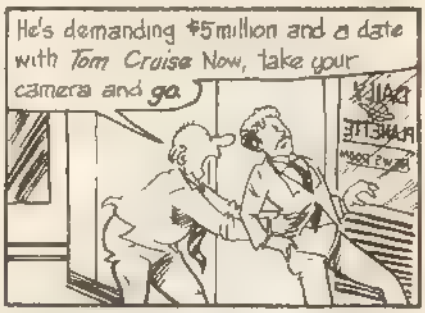
And so all over the world..
Hubh What if I was GAY? I wouldn't deserve to be beaten up by somebody just cause they feel THREATENED by me..
Hey. how would I like it if someone treated me badly just because they didn't like what COLOR I was?
I guess if I was raised with a MAJORITY attitude and to look upon other races to a THREAT to my privileges I'd act the same way....
Poor bastards feel threatened by my existence.. Thank GOD I'm getting away!!
Wait a minute.. how would I like it if someone robbed me of MY hard-earned money?
Thats right.. I never liked it when Mom beat the shit out of ME..
I guess I wouldn't want somebody else to shoot ME for being a different religion...
Hey, these people elected me because they wanted to make some POSITIVE CHANGES in their lives... I wouldn't want to be let down..
I wouldn't want someone to do that to ME..
AND ON AND ON AND ON AND ON..
(ANY ELECTED OFFICIAL)
F.I.L IN ANYONE YOU'D LIKE
Hey, this superhero business is a piece O' CAKE!
Wow, Travelling sure is TIRING ..... It's nice to be back HOME again
U.S. CUSTOMS
DECLARE IT OR DUMP IT!

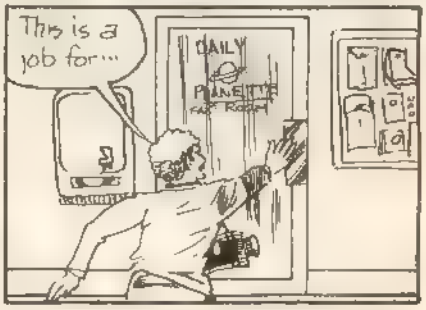
GENDER BENDER

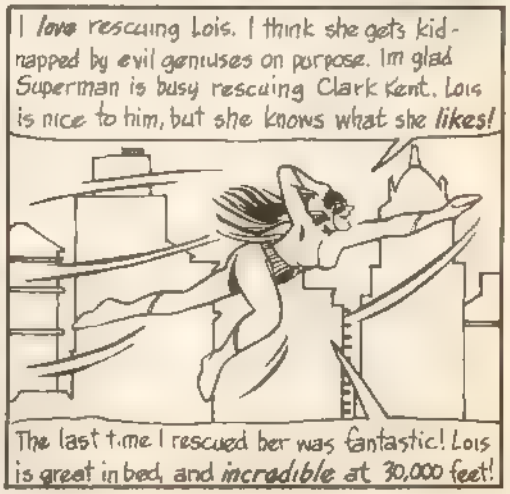
Champion of Truth, Justice, and Unisex Underwear

By Kurt Erichsen © 1993



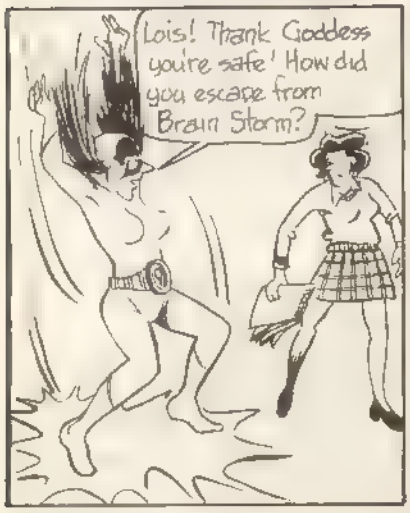





I love rescuing Lois. I think she gets kidnapped by evil geniuses on purpose. Im glad Superman is busy rescuing Clark Kent. Lois is nice to him, but she knows what she likes!
The last time I rescued her was fantastic! Lois is great in bed, and incredible at 30,000 feet!

Golly, that's *Jimmy* hanging over the edge of the *Stonewall Monument*. What has Brain-Storm done with Lois? I hope I'm not (gulp) too late!
Wait, *there* she is!
Ha-haa-Ha!!
Stonewall Monument

Stop right there, Gender Bender! One step closer, and I'll bite through Jimmy's underpants, and he'll fall to his *doom*
HELP! HELP!!



He thinks he can thwart me by taking a hostage of the *wrong sex*. If he thinks *that* will stop me!
Look Gender Bender I'm not the jealous type, but you can't rescue Jimmy. It'd be *heterosexual*.

THE END! (I can't bear to watch)

THE DARING NEW ADVENTURES OF
BATQUEEN
AND GUIDO
THE CLONE WONDER
YOUNG (BUT LEGAL) RICKY ROYAL HAS JUST SEEN A CERTAIN CINEMATIC BLOCKBUSTER ..
WOW! WHAT A FANTASTIC MOVIE! IF ONLY MY LIFE COULD BE AS EXCITING AS THAT!!
ODEON
BATMAN
BUT YOU SAID DISTINCTLY YOU'D ONLY DENY ENTRANCE TO GAYS IN BATMAN COSTUMES...
QUEUE
ZZZZZZZZZZ
LATER THAT NIGHT
RICKY IS SLEEPING PEACEFULLY WHEN SUDDENLY...
MASTER RICKY! THE COMMISSIONER CALLED!! THE HOAXER IS ABOUT TO POISON THE GOLDRUSH POPPERS PLANT!
WHAT?
WHY, THE FIEND!
GUIDO! QUICKLY! INTO COSTUME!
OH YES GUIDO! THAT'S GOOD. JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE NOW AHH.
THAT'S IT!
GASP
GULP!
AND I STAND REVEALED AS BATQUEEN THE DIAMANTE DETECTIVE THE NEMESIS OF ALL HOMOPHOBES!
I JUST WISH HE'D FIND A QUICKER WAY TO INFLATE THOSE FAKE MUSCLES.
MEANWHILE . AT THE GOLDRUSH POPPERS PLANT
HA HA HA!! RIGHT, BOYS...
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIX THESE CHEMICALS
AND WE'LL ELIMINATE THOSE UNDESIREABLES ONCE AND FOR ALL!
DON'T BET ON THAT, HOAXER!!
DAMN! I SNAGGED MY CAPE!
THINK YOURSELF LUCKY YOU DIDN'T PUNCTURE YOUR MUSCLES!!
CURSES!
GET THEM, BOYS!!

HA! TRY MY MACE No.5 PERFUME, YOU GOONS... IT'LL BRING TEARS TO YOUR EYES!!
SSSSST
...AND HOW'S THIS FOR A BLOWJOB, BOYS?
AAA CHOO!
AAH-CHOO
AA-CHOO
HEY! GERROFF!
ERRM.... NO! WAIT...
OOOH!
GOOD GRAVY! HOLD ON, GUIDO — I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THERE!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, BAT-BUTTINSKY! GO CHASE THE HOAXER!
TOO LATE, FOOLS! ONE FLICK OF THIS LEVER AND THE CHEMICALS WILL BE RELEASED INTO THE PRODUCTION LINE!
YOUR "PERSECUTED MINORITY" IS ABOUT TO BECOME AN "EXTINCT SPECIES"
HAHAHA
"TOO LATE", VILLAIN? NOT WHILE I'VE GOT MY...
SLAP
BAT-TIARA!
AIEEE!
I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, BITCH!!
SPLASH
KNOCK
OH NO! WHAT A WAY TO GO!
YES, GUIDO, BUT AT LEAST SHE DIED SMILING!!
HEY! WHERE'S THAT KNOCKING COMING FROM? ARE THE POLICE HERE ALREADY?
KNOCK KNOCK
RICKY!
GET UP, YOU LAZY SOD! YOU'LL BE LATE FOR WORK AGAIN!!
KNOCK! KNOCK!
YES, MOTHER...
OHHH... IF ONLY...
End

QUEER SIR . . .

The letter bag has been really small lately. Let's get the letters coming in, to spur on the ***Gay Comics*** cartoonists!

Dear Andy,
Did I mail a letter to you about **Gay Comics #15** *already? <Nc> It is a shame when someone loses their mind.*

It's hard to write this letter because I liked everything and I don't want to sound like a gushing fanboy. The only thing I would really like to see is for **Gay Comics** *to go monthly. O.K., so I know that this is impossible at this time.*

I've also been rereading **Gay Comix Special #1**, *featuring Tim Barela's Leonard & Larry. I like how his characters grow and change over the years. It would be real nice if all of his strips could be collected into one big volume.*

I look forward to future issues of **Gay Comics**.

Robert Ploski
Somerville, MA

Good news for *Leonard & Larry* fans. Tim's contracted with Palliard Press to publish a huge paperback collection of most of the *L&L* work he's done over the last decade! We'll let you know when it's coming. Also, keep an eye on future issues when Tim starts an all-new series for ***Gay Comics!*** Yowza! -- Andy.

Dear Mr. Mangels,

I noticed with interest the advertisement in Spawn #10 *that you will be writing parts of* **Gay Comics #17** *and* **#18**. *I commend you for this decision. In a society governed by homophobia, people with power have typically shunned homosexuals. I mean, read the first article in* Wizard #22, *page 23, top left: ". . . having his heroes fight racism, AIDS, and sexual deviance." What is the exact definition of "sexual deviance," and who wrote that blurb? I hope that person realizes being gay is not "sexual deviance."*

I once again commend you for writing a comic that serves as a public service. I will definitely purchase **Gay Comics** *for a long time to come.*

Jason Jordan
Seattle, WA

P.S. I am only 14 years old. I hope that others in my peer group can try to keep an open mind. Only then will we live in a country of freedom.

Boy, when I got this letter, forwarded my way by *Wizard*, I was floating for hours! For those who didn't see it, Todd McFarlane donated the inside back cover of *Spawn* #10 (one of the top five best-selling comics) as a full-page ad for ***Gay Comics* #17-19**. Todd received a lot of flack for the move, including stores -- and even a distributor -- that asked if the comics were returnable! Todd stands behind his decision to run the ad, a stand I think is deserving of a lot of respect.

Wizard's editor says that the statement about "sexual deviance" was from a press release, and conceded that it probably should have been cut out.

Jason, I welcome you as a new reader. Hopefully mainstream creators such as George Pérez and others coming up will bring in more readers who never thought about how cool ***Gay Comics*** could be. You know, with teens as smart as you, Jason, I do have hope for the future. - Andy.

I also got a letter too long to print in one page from Whitt Pond. Many thanks for your incisive comments. In answer to your questions: *#1 – Why doesn't The Advocate print regular comics anymore?* Because they don't think comics are important. Maybe that's a part of the reason their sales are dropping so badly. *#2 -- What's happened to Jerry Mills' "Poppers"?* As you may have read last issue, Jerry passed away in January. There are discussions about doing a complete "Poppers" collection. *#3 – I hope Rhonda Dicksion gets all of her Lesbian Survival Hints together in a book someday.* She has. Both *The Lesbian Survival Manual* and *Stay Tooned*, are available from Naiad Press, at better bookshops.

We'll see you next issue, with more comics, more fun, and (if you write in) more letters!

CORRECTION

In ***Gay Comics* #17**'s letters page, I implied that Patrick Marcel would be doing some work for us later this year. I spoke too soon. Patrick will not be doing work for ***Gay Comics*** in the near future.

Send *Gay Comics* submissions and letters to :
Andy Mangels - Editor, Gay Comics
PO Box 3226, Portland, OR, 97208-3226
Submissions responses may take a long time.
Always include a phone number and a SASE.

Back Issues **#6, 9-19, Special #1**
$3.50 each (US) $4.00 each (Can)
$5.50 each (overseas)
Order From: **Gay Comics, 395 9th St,**
San Francisco, CA 94103-3831

CONTRIBUTORS

George Pérez is one of the most respected artists in the comic business, having worked on virtually every mainstream superhero comic over his long career: *Avengers, Fantastic Four, Justice League, New Teen Titans, Crisis On Infinite Earths*, and more. He wrote and/or drew *Wonder Woman* from 1987-92, introducing the first openly lesbian and gay characters in the book's 50 year history! He's now working on *Sachs and Violens* for Epic.

J. A. Fludd is a New York artist whose art on *Sentinel* is getting some notice. He's written for the *Fantaco Chronicles*, and he belongs to the Gaylactic Network, the international organization of gay and lesbian science fiction fans. His previous *Sentinel* stories were in *Gay Comics* #16-18.

Joan Hilty lives in New York, but grew up in California on a steady diet of *Tintin, Nancy Drew*, and comics. Her super-heroine crushes include Marvel's Rogue and She-Hulk, and DC's Green Flame/Ice. Her work has appeared in *The Advocate, Oh, GirlJock, Real Girl*, and *Wimmen's Comics*, and she is developing a strip for self-syndication. She's been in *Gay Comix/Comics* #13, 14, 18.

Robert Kirby draws the self-syndicated comic strip *Curbside*, and edits a queer comic zine called *Strange Looking Exile* ($4.25, Giant Ass Publishing, PO Box 214, New Haven, CT 06502). His cartoons have recently appeared in *The Advocate* and *Real Girl*. He had a story in *Gay Comics* #17.

Jennifer Camper draws the bi-weekly feature "Camper," a self-syndicated cartoon which runs in various publications. Her work is also available on postcards, available at better bookstores. For ordering info, send a SASE to Camper, 151 1st Ave. #54, NY, NY 10003. She created IronWoman for *Gay Comix* #8, and has other stories in *Gay Comix/Comics* #2, 4, 5, 7, 11-15, 17.

Malachy Covey and **Sean Doran** are both newcomers to the pages of *Gay Comics*, all the way from Ireland! They're the co-creators of, *Major Power & Spunky*, which has appeared in Ireland's *DV8* and *Zipper*.

Cheela Smith has specialized in females since 1957. Her work has appeared in *Real Girl, Wimmen's Comics*, and *GirlJock*. She is one of the world's leading authorities on Pig Latin and Veeblefetzers. She has had stories in *Gay Comix/Comics* #3, 17.

Howard Stangroom is the editor of our British counterpart, *Buddies*. He ekes out his living as a comic shop wage slave. His work has appeared in *Avalon, Heartbreak Hotel, Him, Meatmen, Masters of the Universe, She-Ra*, and the kinky *My Little Pony*. He has done stories in *Gay Comix/Comics* #11, 12, 14, 17.

Steven Lowther has been seen in many British publications, from *Avalon, Buddies, Heartbreak Hotel, Trident, Him*, and *Meatmen*. He's also appeared in *Gay Comix/Comics* #11, 12, 14, 17.

Andy Mangels edits *Gay Comics* (since issue #14), and writes *Friday the 13th* (Topps) and *ElfQuest: Blood Of Ten Chiefs* (WARP) with #2. He has upcoming stories in *ElfQuest Summer Special '93* (WARP), *The Batman Adventures* and *Justice League Quarterly* (DC). His *Quantum Leap #9* (Inovation), set during the week of the Stonewall riots, created a national stir. He recently wrote the Gay Comics entry (tracing the history of gay and lesbian cartoonists and comics) for Collier Books' upcoming *Concise Encyclopedia of Homosexuality*. He's written stories in *Gay Comix/Comics* #14, 16-18.

Julie Franki is a native Texan currently living in Kansas City. When she's not drawing her own comics, she enjoys reading other people's, especially *Dykes To Watch Out For, Desert Peach, Love & Rockets*, and *Naughty Bits*. She has had stories in *Gay Comics* #17, 18.

Roberta Gregory wrote and drew the first openly lesbian comic, *Dynamite Damsels*, in 1976. Since then, she's done *Winging It* and *Artistic Licentiousness*, as well as her tremendously good *Naughty Bits* series. For more information and a free catalog, send a SASE to her at PO Box 27438. Roberta holds the distinction of having appeared in more issues of this series than any other cartoonist. Look for her in *Gay Comix/Comics* #1-7,10-17.

Kurt Erichsen is a familiar name to longtime readers. An Ohio resident, he's famous for his *Murphy's Manor* and *Sparkle Spinsters* strips. He's done work for *Starlog, Science Fiction Review, Comics Feature, Under The Cover/Between The Sheets*, and most of the *Meatmen* books. He's had stories in *Gay Comix* #1, 3, 4, 6-8, 11, 12.

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